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# U.S. Calls Soviet Pullout 'Blatant Political Action'

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

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WASHINGTON, May 8 — The Reagan Administration said today that the Soviet decision not to take part in this summer's Olympic Games in Los Angeles was "a blatant political action for which there was no real justification."

Although the Soviet authorities had been hinting for more than a month that they might keep their team away from Los Angeles, most Government experts on the Soviet Union were surprised by today's announcement by the Soviet press agency Tass.

White House and State Department officials, as well as several members of Congress, heatedly denied charges the Russians made in justifying their decision.

The Soviet National Olympic Team, in announcing that the American authorities had made it "impossible" for it to participate in the Games, accused the United States of inadequate security arrangements and of encouraging "extremist organizations" to create "unbearable conditions" for the Soviet athletes.

## Soviet Motivation Assessed

John Hughes, the State Department spokesman, said that after the Tass statement the United States "confirmed through diplomatic channels" that the Soviet team does not intend to participate in the XXIII Olympiad.

Specialists in the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency differed today over the Soviet motivation, but there was a strongly held view that the action was at least partly in retaliation for the American boycott of the Moscow Games in 1980. All the experts interviewed also said that with Soviet-American relations at a very low ebb, the decision to stay away underscored Moscow's refusal to appear conciliatory to the Reagan Administration.

Although Konstantin U. Chernenko, the Soviet leader, has denied that Soviet actions have had anything to do with American politics, senior Administration officials are convinced that Moscow hopes Mr. Reagan will be de-

feated in November and is trying to do whatever it can not to help him in his re-election bid.

The Russians have refused to resume negotiations on nuclear arms control, and they have rejected American initiatives in recent months on such matters as banning chemical weapons and cutting conventional force levels in Central Europe. They have also refused to sign a routine technical accord on improving the hot line between Washington and Moscow.

But the Soviet actions have not necessarily damaged the President. Today, for instance, even Democrats in Congress criticized the Soviet action, and no statements were issued here blaming Mr. Reagan for it.